

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 11-12 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1 and 3 are amended, Claims 7-10 are canceled, and new claims 11-12 are added.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 10, and Claim 3 has been placed into independent form.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesy extended by the Examiner to Applicant's representative during the 16 May 2005 telephone interview, wherein U.S. Patent No. 5,547,257 to Lavender was discussed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication in the Office Action that Claims 3 and 10 contain allowable subject matter. Since Claim 3 has been placed into independent form and the subject matter of Claim 10 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 3 are allowable. Dependent Claims 2, 4-6 and 11-12 are likewise allowable for at least the same reasons.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,443,835 to Brunskole (Brunskole). The Examiner also rejects Claims 1-2 and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,547,257 to Lavender (Lavender). The Examiner also rejects Claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lavender in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,434,870 to Thatcher (Thatcher). As indicated above, the claims have been amended so that the independent claims contain subject matter indicated by the Examiner as being allowable. Accordingly, these rejections are obviated.

Applicant respectfully submits that application is in condition for allowance. In the event any questions arise regarding this communication or the application in general, please contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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